

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CCO-00 DOTE-00 EB-11

H-03 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSC-10 M-03 OC-06 PRS-01

RSC-01 SS-15 USSS-00 SY-10 FAA-00 PA-03 EUR-25 RSR-01

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O 240951Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0339

INFO USINT CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS XF LY

SUBJECT: HIJACKED JAL PALNE

1. HAVE BEEN MONITORING LARG MEDIA TO DETECT
SIGNS OF ANY COMMENT ON JAL PLANE'S HIJACKING LAST
THREE DAYS, AND ITS DESTRUCTION TODAY. AS OF THIS
WRITING, LIBYAN REPORTING ON WHOLE AFFAIR HAS BEEN
STRAIGHT AND WITHOUT COMMENT SO FAR AS WE AWARE. VERY LIKELY,
HOWEVER, THAT IN REPLY TO THE WAVE OF CRITICISM OF LARG THAT
WE EXPECT, IT WILL JUSTIFY ITS DECISION TO PERMIT LANDING
OF 747 AND POSSIBLY THE DESTRUCTION TOO. TENOR OF
ITS JUSTIFICATION WILL BE KEYED TO WHO CRITICIZES WHAT
ABOUT THESE EVENTS.

2. ASSUME USG SPOKESMEN WILL NOW HAVE TO REPLY TO
PRESS QUESTIONS ABOUT LIBYAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE
SERIES OF CRIMES COMMITTED BY HIJACKERS -- DESPITE
FACT NO AMERICANS APPARENTLY INVOLVED. IF SO,
WOULD POINT OUT WE HAD BETTER BE CAREFUL UNTIL MORE
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FACTS ARE IN. QADHAFI IS ON RECORD AS OPPOSING

HIJACKING CRIMES UNLESS THEY INCIDENTAL TO A POLITICAL CAUSE OF WHICH HE APPROVES -- NOTABLY PALESTINIAN CAUSE IN GENERAL BUT NOT ALL ITS MANIFESTATIONS OR ADHERENTS OR ORGANIZATIONS. HE OPPOSES PFLP AND OTHER "MARXIST" PALESTINIAN GROUPS AND HIS ATTITUDE TO JAPANESE RED ARMY MUST BE AMBIVALENT AT MOST. (PERHAPS THIS ACCOUNTS FOR LONG DELAY IN 747'S ARRIVAL AT ITS FINAL DESTINATION.) POINT IS WE SIMPLY DO NOT KNOW AT THIS STAGE WHY OR UNDER WHAT PRECONDITIONS LARG PERMITTED LANDING AT BENGHAZI AIRPORT. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO HOLD OFF ON CONCLUSIONS UNTIL WE HEAR SOMETHING OFFICIAL OR OTHERWISE PERSUASIVE.

3. DEPENDING ON WHAT IS SAID AT THAT TIME, WE MIGHT ALSO BEAR IN MIND THAT IT PROBABLY NOT NECESSARY FOR USG TO ASSURE THAT THE LARG IS DULY CRITICIZED BY THE WORLD IN THIS CASE. JAPAN AND MUCH OF THE THIRD WORLD AS WELL AS EUROPE CAN BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE POINTS VERY STRONGLY. ON OTHER HAND, IF USG TAKES THE LEAD IN CONDEMNING LARG IT WILL POST HOC CONVINCE LARG IT DID RIGHT THING, WHATEVER ITS DOUBTS AT THE TIME.

JOSIF

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30 JUN 2005

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